

Assisting the Vulnerable Conflict-Affected in Darfur – 2

Funded by USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance

South Darfur, Sudan

Fifth Quarter Report

January 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016

PROGRAM SUMMARY	
Award No.	AID-OFDA-G-15-00099
Start Date	February 1, 2015
End Date	January 31, 2016 Extended to April 30, 2016 (NCE)
Report Date	April 30, 2016
Total Award	\$1,799,840

1. Overview

Security

During the reporting period, fighting between the Sudan Army Forces (SAF) and the rebels in the Jabal Marra area led to new displacement throughout the Darfur states (OCHA March 2016). An estimated 143,700 people were displaced of which an estimated 129,200 people had been displaced from their villages to North Darfur State and 14,500 people had been reported to have reached Central Darfur State according to the Sudan Government Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and OCHA reports. The HAC estimated that 1,140 households fled from Jabal Marra to South Darfur State (SDS) where 680 families sought shelter in Kass town and 460 families in Otash IDP camp. In addition, 43,932 South Sudanese Refugees from Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap states arrived to Eastern Darfur and South Darfur States. Although this does not directly affect MC's interventions in its targeted Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps – Dereige, Sakaly and El Serif – MC nevertheless believes that these displacements (remained unaddressed by the humanitarian community) may have the potential to impact these camps and in turn MC activities.

However, the security situation in SDS generally remained calm but unpredictable. The State of Emergency is still in place with a night curfew and a ban on the use of motorbikes throughout the state is still being enforced. Since last year, the use of four wheel drive

vehicles has also been added to the list of banned vehicles. The threat of kidnapping and carjacking around Nyala town, especially targeting the humanitarian agencies (UNAMID, UN agencies and INGOs) have decreased.

Despite the various security incidents and restrictions in Nyala, MC field staff members continued to access and implement program planned activities in the three IDP camps – Dereige, Sakaly and El Serif – and the rural areas (with due security precautions and vigilance) whenever they were given travel permissions by the HAC to move into the field.

Program Implementation

During this reporting quarter, MC continued supporting the operation and maintenance of seven diesel motorized systems including five in Dereige and two in Sakaly; nine dual power solar motorized water supply systems including eight in El Serif and one Dereige; and six hand pumps with three in Dereige and three in El Serif camps.

The program – as a continuation to its predecessor and through the approved No-Cost Extension (NCE) – is also committed to increasing sustainable access to safe drinking water through: the introduction of Water User Fees; improving safe access to sanitation facilities; promoting hygiene; and creating more participation of communities through conducting capacity building trainings. The program is also encouraging the use of environmentally friendly construction practices and the monitoring of water tables and water quality in IDP camps. This MC WASH program will continue putting in efforts to empower communities by ensuring the participation of community groups in the design, implementation, decision-making and management of the program's activities. During the latter part of this reporting period, the MC WASH team conducted a KAP survey, sampling 1,103 households in the three IDP camps (including 403 Dereige, 324 Sakaly, and 376 El Serif). The survey aimed to evaluate the progress and impact of the program.

Program Accomplishments

Sector 1: WASH

Sub-sector 1.1: Water Supply

MC continued supporting the operation and maintenance of seven diesel water systems including five in Dereige and two in Sakaly; nine dual power solar motorized water supply systems which include one in Dereige and eight in El Serif; and six hand pumps – three in Dereige and three in El Serif – providing approximately a total of 625 cubic meters of safe drinking water per day benefiting a total of 77,269 people including 36,611 in Dereige, 8,228 in Sakaly and 32,370 in El Serif camps. In Dereige IDP camp, the donated solar system by a private company in Khartoum was installed (the system consists of one pump and nine panels). Additionally, the installation of the remaining three new solar systems include (one in Sakaly and two in Dereige camp) will be completed before the end of April 2016. In addition, MC constructed one elevated tank with the capacity of 25m³ to replace the existing old tank and distributed one hand pump tool kit to WASH committees to repair/rehabilitate hand pump in Sakaly IDP camp. These will remain with the committees to be used for future repairs.

The current water coverage is estimated at 12.94 l/p/d in Dereige, 9.2 l/p/d in Sakaly and 12.0 l/p/d in El Serif camps. The decrease in current water coverage is temporary which is due to the transition of diesel powered water supply systems from diesel to solar power.

During this reporting period, MC's WASH team continued to mobilize IDP beneficiaries and encouraged them to participate in community based operation and maintenance to manage their own water infrastructures in the three IDP camps.

In El Serif camp in particular, the WASH committees screened the marginalized households and disabled and excluded **474** families out of the total registered **2,725** families from the monthly contribution in the camp. The financial system in El Serif is established and the WASH committees are continuing to collect the monthly household's contribution which is varied from sector (El Serif camp is divided into seven sectors) to another and ranges between 6 SDG to 14 SDG per household per month (1 Sudanese Pound – SDG is equivalent to 0.16 USD). In Remialiya sector for example, the monthly household contribution has been set at a uniform rate of 10 SDG (1.63 USD) per household per month. Currently, the majority of the targeted households are committed to pay the monthly contribution and the amount collected is used to contribute for the cash incentives of operators and guard's to run the dual power solar motorized water supply systems. In addition, MC facilitated the formation of seven new WASH committees: five committees consist of 41 people (five females and 35 males) in Dereige camp and two WASH committees comprising of 14 people (six females and eight males) in Sakaly camp. In Sakaly, these newly formed committees had consultations with the community and identified 95 vulnerable families out of the total registered 781 households to be screened and excluded from the monthly contribution. In Dereige camp, the WASH committees is in process to determine the monthly water charges, a collection mechanism and the screening and verification of households which are unable to pay the monthly contribution.

MC has started monthly coordination meetings with these WASH committees to discuss the constraints of overall management of the water infrastructures, water flow distribution and water charges collection in the three IDP camps.

During this quarter, under the technical supervision of MC' WASH expert, the community volunteers measured ground water table at seven boreholes, including four boreholes in Dereige, two boreholes in Sakaly and one borehole in El Serif camps. The analyzed data indicated a dropdown of water table is observed at all boreholes. Therefore, MC rescheduled the operation times of the diesel water systems to avoid the burning of submersible pumps and other delicate equipment in Dereige and Sakaly camps.

MC continued water quality testing for E.coli bacteria and water chlorination at all three IDP camps. Results of bacteriological tests of water samples collected from the water points indicated a 100% (51/51) success rate with 0% faecal coliforms in the three IDP camps and an 84% (63/75) success rate with 0% faecal coliforms bacteria in IDP camps of water samples taken from water containers at the household level.

The results of the Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) samples (residual chlorine level exceeding 0.2 mg/l) taken from 66 random water points (30 from Dereige, 6 from Sakaly and 30 from El Serif) – out of 78 water points – indicated a 100% success rate in all three camps. However, the success rate was less at the household level, with 40% (73/180) for FRC exceeding 0.2 mg/l from water collection and storage containers in all the three camps. Field observation for water quality showed there to be lower levels of chlorine at households because of algae inside water containers. As a counter measure to algae growth, MC supported water users with cleaning materials and carried out campaigns to clean their water containers to remove these growths.

Sub-sector 1.2: Sanitation

During this reporting period, MC continued supporting IDP beneficiaries with environmentally friendly materials for construction of new household latrines in the three IDP camps. A total of 163 new household latrines were constructed, including 130 in Dereige and 33 in El Serif benefiting 815 people. However no latrines were rehabilitated or replaced.

Sub-sector 1.3: Environmental Health

MC continued supporting solid waste management campaigns for IDP beneficiaries in all three camps. Efforts were made by community volunteers, women groups and community leaders to mobilize their respective communities to participate in regular waste management campaigns to clean up their dwellings and public places. MC provided 22 rental carts and the communities provided the donkeys for the transportation of solid waste to the final disposal sites. In Dereige camp, MC's team mobilized the community and carried out three solid waste campaigns – two routine waste campaigns and one intensive campaign – covering all the sectors to clean the dumping sites and public places. Dereige was the focus of these campaigns due to the camp's community leaders having decided to move the garbage dumping sites further away from the camp as the camp size is expanding.

Sub-sector 1.4: Hygiene Promotion

In this reporting period, MC continued to support hygiene promotion awareness campaigns to promote personal hygiene practices in order to reduce incidences of water related diseases in IDP camps. The trained community volunteers (both female and male) are sensitizing IDP beneficiaries and sharing hygiene messages through home to home visits, hygiene sessions, water dialogues and public demonstrations on cleaning water containers. The community hygiene promoters also focused on the selected poor hygienic households through home inspections campaigns in the IDP camps and taught them how to improve the hygienic conditions of their dwellings. The main purpose of this activity was to create a competition in behaviour change between the selected families. At the end of the month the team assessed the situation and motivated the winners by awarding them with soap and temporal hand washing facilities. In addition, MC participated in the World Water Day – 22nd March 2016 – celebration with the Government's Water Environment and Sanitation (WES) Department and other WASH partners at Nyala University.

To improve sanitation and hygiene practices and to facilitate the practicing of hand washing for pupils in IDP schools, 14 temporal hand washing facilities and toilet soap – including one per school in Dereige and Sakaly and two per school in El Serif – were distributed to 12 primary schools – six schools in Dereige, four schools in Sakaly and two schools in El Serif – benefiting 5,600 students in the three camps.

2. Cross-cutting Issues

a. Environment

MC continues to prioritize the protection of the environment during implementation – as it did during the design – of all program activities. During this reporting quarter, the team continued to use environmentally friendly materials in the construction and rehabilitation/replacement of water and sanitation infrastructures. MC is also ensuring environmental protection by using appropriate disposal methods for human faeces and solid waste to avoid environmental pollution and to encourage the community to promote environmental conservation practices.

b. Gender

MC staff continue to promote gender representation by advising the communities to select leadership groups with equal participation of women and men in the WASH committees for managing water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. The team also focused on encouraging these females to actively participate in decision making processes in these committee proceedings.

c. Capacity Building

During this reporting quarter, MC continued strengthening the capacity of the WASH committees to actively participate in the management and ownership of the water facilities. MC facilitated a three-day training on management of community based water facilities for the selected WASH committees. This training was attended by 49 members (12 females and 37 males) representing seven committees from Dereige (five) and Sakaly (two). El Serif WASH committees were already trained in the last two quarters.

d. Coordination

MC regularly participates in the bi-weekly WASH sector coordination meetings in Nyala chaired by UNICEF and WES and in this quarter, MC participated in the celebration of World Water Day with other WASH partners on 22nd March 2016.

MC has been requested by the WASH sector (at federal level) to co-coordinate the WASH sector in Darfur (at state level). MC has identified the potential candidate and the hiring process is taking place. Hopefully MC will start its new co-coordination role for the WASH sector in Darfur from early May 2016.

3. Challenges

- A drop in ground water levels reduced the daily water extraction quantity that is impacting on maintaining the water coverage in the IDP camps. MC is keenly monitoring the situation and has already planned water trucking in case the water coverage drops to the minimum 7.5 l/p/d survival limit.
- Difficulties in measuring the water levels in three boreholes as result of narrow space between the borehole casing and the submersible pump in El Serif camp. MC is in the process of finding the appropriate apparatus (i.e. available new technology) to address this issue.